

Outstanding Reindeer Herder Enters Contest

Johnson Stalker, Outstanding Young Farmer for Alaska will leave Nome, Alaska today to travel to the National Outstanding Young Farmer Contest sponsored by the United States Jaycees which is being held in Birmingham, Alabama April 3-4-5.

Johnson Stalker has been a

reindeer herder in Northwest Alaska since a young boy. He started as an apprentice at 13 and worked his way up to full ownership of his own herd.

Presently Stalker is employed as the head herdsman for the model reindeer herd which the Bureau of Indian Affairs has established near Nome. The model herd will be used for demonstration and research in an effort to improve the reindeer industry in Alaska.

Accompanying Stalker on his trip to Birmingham will be his lovely wife Rosie and Richard Birchell, Agricultural Extension Specialist for the BIA in Nome. Both Rosie and Johnson are Eskimo and both have lived most of their lives north of the Arctic Circle.

Alaska Airlines is making Rosie's trip possible. They are providing all her air transportation from Nome to Birmingham and return.

Birchell will serve as an escort and public relations man for the Stalker's. He will take slides and pictures of the reindeer industry with him and together with Johnson Stalker they will show the pictures to interested groups, clubs and organizations.